[Translation]

Smuggling of Goods

1213. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the smuggled goods seized during the last year; and

(b) the value of the goods seized in the international market?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). During 1995-96, anti Smuggling agencies seized under the Customs Act 1962 goods valued at Rs. 634.82 crores. Seized goods include Gold, Silver, Indian and Foreign Currency, Electronic items, diamond and Narcotics. Except in the case of gold and silver it is not possible to state the international value of the seized good due to wide variation in the international prices depending on the quality, make and country of origin of the seized goods.

However, International value of seized Gold and Silver can be estimated on the basis of average price of Gold and Silver in the London bullion market. Based on these estimates, Indian International values of Gold and Silver seized during 1995-96 under the Customs Act, 1962 are given below :

	Indian Value (Rupees in Crores)	International Value
Gold	50.87	44.73
Silver	0.54	0.45

[English]

Disbursements by SIDBI

1214. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Small Industries Development Bank of India recorded a substantial increase in sanction, disbursements and refinance during the year 1995-96;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether States in Eastern and Northern-Eastern Region have been accorded low priority, and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has reported that its total sanctions during 1995-96 amounted to Rs. 6056 crore and aggregate disbursements during this period stood at Rs. 4796 crore, registering growth of 29% and 42% respectively over the sanctions and disbursements during 1994-95. Of the total assistance, sanctions of refinance at Rs. 2609 crore and disbursements at Rs. 2124 crore in 1995-96 were higher by 56% and 72% respectively as compared with the figures for the previous year.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. As per information provided by SIDBI, the particulars of sanctions and disbursements in the Eastern and North-Eastern Region during the years 1994-95 and 1995-96 are as follows :

(Rs. in Crore)

	FY 1994-95	FY 1995-96	Growth
Sanctions	227.44	340.55	50%
Disbursements	154.99	293.13	89%

Promotion of Small Scale Industries

1215. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have constituted any Expert Committee on Small Scale Enterprises;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report to the Government;

(c) if so, the main recommendations thereof; and

(d) the other steps the Government propose to take to promote small scale industries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have constituted an Expert Committee on Small Enterprises headed by Shri Abid Hussain (former Member, Planning Commission) on 29th December, 1995.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) In view of the reply to part (b) above, does not arise.

(d) The Government has taken various steps for promotion and development of small scale industries (SSI) in the country. These include provisions of excise concession, reservation of products for exclusive manufacture in the SSI sector, inclusion of SSIs in the priority sector for lending by commercial banks etc. A number of development schemes are also being implemented by the Government for providing infrastructure support and extension services for the SSIs through institutions like Tool Rooms and Small Industries Service Institutes.

Export of Poor Quality of Tea and Tobacco

1216. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received some complaints regarding export of poor quality of tea and tobacco to Russia;

(b) if so, the details of such cases detected during 1995 and 1996 so far; and